

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 17, 21, 29, 32-42 and cancel claims 5 and 28 without disclaimer or prejudice. The following list of claims replaces all proceeding lists.

1. (currently amended) An antenna, comprising:

a ground plane;

a radiating element spaced above said ground plane;

a slot having side walls formed in said radiating element; and

an extension of said radiating element where at least one part of the extension resides in the same plane as said radiating element and out of physical contact with said side walls.

2. (original) The antenna of claim 1 wherein a portion of said extension is located in a space between said radiating element and said ground plane.

3. (original) The antenna of claim 1 including:

a shorting post connecting said radiating element to said ground plane;

an edge on said radiating element;

said slot having an open end located on said edge and having a closed end located within said radiating element;

said extension having a first end connected to said radiating element and located generally adjacent to said open end of said slot; and

said extension having a second end located generally adjacent to said closed end of said slot.

4. (original) The antenna of claim 3 wherein said second end of said extension is located in a space between said radiating element and said ground plane.

5. (cancel)

6. (original) The antenna of claim 3 wherein said edge is a non-radiating edge of said radiating element.

7. (original) The antenna of claim 6, wherein said shorting post is located generally on said non-radiating edge of said radiating element.

8. (original) The antenna of claim 7 including:

a feed post on a non-radiating edge.

9. (original) The antenna of claim 3 wherein said edge is a radiating edge of said radiating element and including a feed post on said radiating edge.

10. (original) The antenna of claim 3 wherein said edge is a generally linear edge, wherein said slot is a generally L-shaped slot having a first portion that extends generally perpendicular to said linear edge and a second portion that extends generally parallel to said linear edge, wherein said extension includes a first portion that extends through said first portion of said slot, and wherein said extension includes a second portion that extends through said second portion of said slot.

11. (original) The antenna of claim 10 wherein said second portion of said extension additionally extends into a space between said radiating element and said ground plane.

12. (original) The antenna of claim 10 wherein said second portion of said slot meanders in a path that extends generally parallel to said generally linear edge, and wherein said second portion of said extension meanders in a path that extends generally parallel to said generally linear edge.

13. (original) The antenna of claim 12 wherein said second portion of said extension additionally extends into a space between said radiating element and said ground plane.

14. (original) The antenna of claim 10 wherein said second portion of said slot is a linear portion that extends generally parallel to said generally linear edge, and wherein said second portion of said extension includes a first portion that extends in one direction through said second portion of said slot, a turn-around portion that is located generally at said closed end of said slot, and a third portion that extends in a second direction through said second portion of said slot.

15. (original) The antenna of claim 3 wherein said edge is a non-radiating edge of said radiating element, including:

a radiating edge on said radiating element;

a feed post on said radiating edge;

a shorting post on said non-radiating edge connecting said radiating element to said ground plane;

said slot having an open end located on said non-radiating edge and a closed end located within said radiating element;

said extension having a first end connected to said radiating element generally at said open end of said slot; and

said extension having a second end located generally adjacent to said closed end of said slot.

16. (original) The antenna of claim 15 wherein said slot includes a generally linear portion that extends generally perpendicular to said non-radiating edge, and wherein said extension follows a meandering path as it extends through said linear portion of said slot.

17. (currently amended) The antenna of claim 16 wherein said slot includes a first generally linear portion that extends generally perpendicular to said non-radiating edge and a second generally linear portion that extends from said first portion of said slot generally parallel to said non-radiating edge, wherein said extension includes a first portion that follows a meandering path as it extends though said first linear portion of said slot, and wherein said extension includes a second portion that extends from said first portion of said extension and follows a generally linear path as it extends through said second portion of said slot.

18. (original) The antenna of claim 3 wherein said edge is a non-radiating edge of said radiating element, including:

a radiating edge on said radiating element;

a feed post on said radiating edge;

a shorting post on said non-radiating edge connecting said radiating element to said ground plane;

said slot having an open end located on said non-radiating edge and a closed end located within said radiating element;

said extension having a first portion connected to said radiating element generally adjacent to said open end of said slot so as to position a second end of said first portion generally at a middle of a length of said slot; and

said extension having a second portion having a first end connected to said radiating element adjacent to said second end of said first portion, said second portion having a second end located generally adjacent to said closed end of said slot.

19. (original) The antenna of claim 18 wherein said first and second portions of said extension follow meandering paths.

20. (original) The antenna of claim 1 wherein said antenna is a planar antenna selected from the group of microstrip antenna and planar inverted-F antenna.

21. (currently amended) An antenna comprising:

a metal ground plane;

a metal radiating element spaced from said ground plane;

a slot having side walls formed in said radiating element; and

a metal element located within said slot where at least one part of the metal element resides in the same plane as said metal radiating element and out of physical contact with said side walls.

22. (original) The antenna of claim 21 wherein said metal element is connected to said ground plane.

23. (original) The antenna of claim 22 wherein said ground plane and said radiating element are planar members that extend generally parallel to each other, and wherein at least a portion of said metal element is generally coplanar with said radiating element.

24. (original) The antenna of claim 23 wherein a portion of said metal element lies in a space between said radiating element and said ground plane.

25. (original) The antenna of claim 23 wherein said radiating element includes an edge, wherein said slot includes a length dimension, a closed end that is located within said radiating element, and an open end that is located on said edge, and wherein said metal element meanders generally along the length of said slot so as to have an effective length dimension that is longer than said length dimension of said slot.

26. (original) The antenna of claim 25 including:

a shorting post connecting said radiating element to said ground plane.

27. (original) The antenna of claim 21 wherein said metal element is connected to said radiating element.

28. (cancel)

29. (currently amended) The antenna of claim 28 21 wherein a portion of said metal element lies in a space between said radiating element and said ground plane.

30. (original) The antenna of claim 29 wherein said radiating element includes an edge, wherein said slot includes a length dimension, a closed end that is located within said radiating element, and an open end that is located on said edge, and wherein said metal element meanders generally along said length dimension of said slot so as to have an effective length dimension that is longer than said length dimension of said slot.

31. (original) The antenna of claim 30 including:

a shorting post connecting said radiating element to said ground plane.

32. (currently amended) The antenna of claim 21 wherein said antenna is selected from the group of microstrip antenna and planar inverted-F antenna.

33. (currently amended) A planar antenna comprising:

a ground plane;

a radiating element having an edge;

a shorting post connecting said radiating element to said ground plane;

a first slot having side walls, an open end that is located on a said edge, and a closed end that is located within said radiating element; a second slot having side walls, and open end that is located on said edge at a position that is spaced from said open end of said first slot, and a closed end that is located within said radiating element;

a first extension of said radiating element entering said first slot at said open end thereof and extending generally along a length of said first second slot from said open end to generally said closed end thereof without physically contacting said side walls of said first slot; and

a second extension of said radiating element entering said second slot at said open end thereof and extending generally along a length of said second slot from said open end to generally said closed end thereof without physically contacting said side walls of said second slot, wherein

at least a portion of said first extension and said second extension reside in the same plane and the radiating element.

34. (currently amended) The antenna of claim 33 wherein said first extension of said radiating element follows a path that is selected from the group of linear and meandering, and wherein said second extension of said radiating element follow a path that is selected from the group of linear and meandering.

35. (currently amended) The antenna of claim 34 wherein said antenna is selected from the group of microstrip antenna and planar inverted-F antenna.

36. (currently amended) A method of controlling the operating parameters of a planar antenna comprising the steps of:

providing a generally planar metal radiating element having an edge;

providing a slot within said radiating element;

providing that said slot include side wall, an open slot-end that lies on said edge of said radiating element, and a closed slot-end ~~the~~ that lies within said radiating element; and

providing a generally planar metal segment;

providing that at least a portion of said metal segment extends generally from said open slot-end to said closed slot-end in the same plane as the radiating element without physically engaging said side walls.

37. (currently amended) The method of claim 36 including the step of:

electrically connecting said metal segment to said radiating element.

38. (currently amended) The method of claim 36 including the step of:

electrically connecting said metal segment to said radiating element at a location generally adjacent to said open-end of said slot.

39. (currently amended) The method of claim 38 including the step of:

providing said metal segment as a meandering metal segment whose length is greater than a length of said slot.

40. (currently amended) The method of claim 36 including the steps of:

providing a metal ground plane that is generally coplanar with said radiating element; and

electrically connecting said metal segment to said ground plane.

41. (currently amended) The method of claim 40 including the step of:

providing said metal segment as a meandering metal segment whose length is greater than a length of said slot.

42. (currently amended) The method of claim 36 including the steps of:

providing a metal ground plane that is generally coplanar with said radiating element;

providing that said metal segment is electrically connecting to one of the group of radiating element and ground plane; and

selecting the antenna from the group of microstrip antenna and planar inverted-F antenna.